On the 5th of laſt Octr., the Houſe of repreſentatives was informed, that Dr. Church, one of their members, was impriſoned by the Gen. & thereby was prevented from attending his duty, as a member of that houſe. They therefore ſent a Comtee to the Genl., demanding their ~~letter~~ member, & the reaſons of his confinement. The Genl. ſent them the Dr.; and alſo the proceedings of the Court Marſhal, reſpecting him, a ſummary of which follows - viz That, at a council of war held at Head Quarters Octr. 3. 1775. Preſent. His Excellency ~~the~~ Genl. Waſhington, the Hon. Major Generals Ward, Lee, Putnam, the Hon. Brig. Generals. Thomas, Spencer, Heath, Sullivan, Green, Gates, the Genl. communicated to the board, a diſcovery of a correſpondence, carried on with the enemy by letter, in characters, which were decyphered by the Revd. Mr. Weſt, & laid the letter before the council - After diſcuſſing the matter, the Council determined to adjourn till the next day, & that ~~then~~ Dr. Church ſhould then be examined. On the next day, ~~day~~ the Council met, & were preſent as before. Dr. Church was alſo ſent for, & ſhewn the letter in characters - He acknowledged that he wrote it, & that Mr. Weſt had truly decyphered it. He declared that his intention of writing the letter was with a view, to poſſeſs the enemy with a ſtrong idea of our ſtrength, & ſituation, in order to prevent an attack, at a time, when the continental army, was in great want of ammunition, & in hopes of effecting ſome ſpeedy accommodation of the preſent diſpute, & concluded with ſolemn aſseverations of his innocence. Notwithſtanding, the council were of ~~[illegible]~~ opinion, that Dr. Church had carried on a criminal correſpondence with the enemy -

They then conſidered what were the proper ſteps to be taken with him, & after examining the regulations of the continental army, particularly the 28th, 29th, & 51st articles, they determined, that from the enormity of the crime, & the very inadequate puniſhment pointed out, ~~that~~ it should be referred to the Congreſs, for their ſpecial direction; & that in the mean time, he be cloſely confined, & no perſon viſit him, without ſpecial licence - -

The General alſo ſent the houſe the Drs letter, as decyphered by Mr Weſt, a copy of which follows -

I hope this will reach you. Three attempts have I made without ſucceſs. In effecting the laſt, the man was diſcovered in attempting his eſcape; but, fortunately, my letter was ſewed in the Waiſtband of his breeches. He was confined a few days, during which time, you may gueſs my feelings; but a little art, & a little caſh, ſettled the matter.

It is a month ſince my return from Philadelphia. I went by the way of Providence to viſit mother. The Comee for warlike ſtores, made me a tender of

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12 pieces of cannon, 18 & 24 pounders; they having formed a previous reſolution to make the offer to Gen. Ward, to make a merit of my ſervice, I ſent them down - And when they received them, they ſent ym to Stoughton, to be out of danger, even tho' they had formed the reſolution, *as I before hinted*, of fortifying Bunker's Hill, which, together with the cowardice of clumſy Col. Gerriſh & Col. Scammons, were the ~~luck~~ *lucky* occaſion of the defeat. This affair happened before my return from Philadelphia. We loſt 165 men, then, & ſince, dead of their wounds: 120 now lay wounded, the chief will recover. They boaſt you had 1400 killed & wounded in that action: you ſay the rebels loſt 1500, I ſuppoſe with equal truth.

The people of Connecticut are raging in the cauſe of liberty. *A number from this Colony from the town of Stamford, robbed the Kings ſtores at New York with ſome ſmall aſſiſtance the New Yorkers lent them.* Theſe were growing very turbulent. I counted 280 pieces of cannon, from 3 to 4 pounders, at Kings bridge, which the Comtee had ſecured for the uſe of the colonies. The Jerſeys are not a whit behind Connecticut in zeal. Philadelphia exceeds them both. I ſaw 2200 men reviewed there, by Gen. Lee, conſiſting of Quakers & other inhabitants in uniform, 1000 riflemen, & 40 horſe, who together made a moſt warlike appearance. I mingled freely & frequently with the members of the continental congreſs. They were united & determined in oppoſition, & appear aſſured of ſucceſs.

Now to come home. The oppoſition is become formidable. 18000 men, brave & determined, with Waſhington, & Lee at their head, are no contemptible enemy. Adj. Gen. Gates is indefatigable in arranging the army. Proviſions are very plenty. Clothing is manufacturing in almoſt every town, for the uſe of the ſoldiery. 20 Tons of Powder lately arrived at Philadelphia, Connecticut, & ~~Rhode Iſland~~ Providence. Upwards of 20 tons are now in the camp. Salt Petre is making in every Colony. Powder Mills are erected, & conſtantly employed in Philadelphia & New York. Volunteers of the firſt fortunes, are flocking to the camp. A thouſand riflemen arrive every 2 or 3 days. Recruits are now raiſing to augment the army to 22.000 men. 10.000 militia are appointed to appear in this Government, on the firſt ſummons. The bills of all the Colonies circulate freely, & are readily exchanged for caſh. Add to this, that unleſs ſome plan of accommodation takes place immediately, theſe harbours will ſwarm with privateers. An army will be raiſed in the middle colonies to take poſſeſſion of Canada. For the ſake of this miſerable convulſed empire, ſollicit peace, repeal the acts, or Britain is undone. This advice is the reſult of a warm affection for the King, & the realm. Remember I never deceived you — Every article I have ſent is ſacredly true. The papers will announce to you, that I am again a member for Boſton. You will there ſee our motley council. A general arrangement of

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of Officers will ſoon take place, except the chief, who will be ſuſpended for a little, to ſee what courſe Britain takes, in conſequence of the continental petition. A view to independance grows more & more general. Should Britain declare war ag^{t} the colonies, they are loſt forever. Should Spain declare war ag^{t} Britain, the Colonies would declare a neutrality, which would produce an offenſive and defenſive league, between them. For god's ſake prevent it, by a ſpeedy accommodation. Writing this, has employed a day. I have been to Salem to reconnoitre, but could not eſcape the geeſe of the capital. To morrow I ſet out for Newport, on purpoſe to ſerve you. I write you fully, it being ſcarcely poſsible to eſcape a diſcovery. I am out of place here, of choice, & therefore out of pay, & determine to be ſo, unleſs it is offered in my way.

I wiſh you could contrive to write me freely in cyphers, by the way of Newport, addreſsed to Thomas Richards, Merchant, incloſed in a cover to me, intimating that I am a perfect ſtranger to you, but being recommended to you, as a gentleman of honour, you took the liberty ~~of~~ to incloſe~~ing~~ that letter, intreating me to deliver as directed, the perſon, you were informed, being at Cambridge. Sign ſome fictitious name. This you may ſend to ſome confidential friend, to deliver me, at Watertown. Make uſe of every precaution or I periſh.

B. Church.

After theſe papers were read, the D.r ~~do~~ with a calm compoſed manner, deſired to know of the houſe, what view they had in examining him: whether they were now proceeding to a final trial, & ſhould paſs ſentence. The Speaker then informed him, that the houſe had no other motive in examining him, but to determine the propriety, of his continuing a member of that houſe- The D.r then told them, that the intercepted letter, tho' ſuperſcribed to Major Cane, was wrote to his brother in law, M.r Fleming. That ſome days ſince, as he was riding to miſtick, he overtook a woman, riding in a Cart, who had juſt came out of Boſton; he knew her face, but could not recollect her name; ſhe delivered him a letter from M.r Fleming in cypher, which he decyphered when he returned to his lodgings, & as the ~~cypher~~ original was then of no conſequence, he put it in his pocket, where he ſuppoſed it got deſtroyed. He delivered to the houſe the copy of Flemings letter, which follows viz —

D.r Doctor -

I have often told you what the dreams of your high ſons would come to. Do you forget ~~the~~ my repeated cautions, not to make yourſelf too obnoxious to government? What ſay the Pſalm ſinger & Johnny Dupe ~~now~~ to fighting britiſh troops now? They are at Philadelphia I ſuppoſe, plotting more miſchief, where I hear your High Mightineſs has been, Ambaſsador extraordinary. Take care of your nob M.r D.r; remember your old friend the Orator, he will preach no more ſedition. Ally joins with me, in begging you will come to Boſton. You may depend upon it,

Government

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Government are determined to cruſh this rebellion
A large reinforcement of troops is hourly expected;
when they are determined to penetrate the country.
For Gods ſake Dr, come to town directly - I'll engage
to procure your pardon: your ſiſter is unhappy un=
=der the apprehenſion of your being taken, & hanged
as a rebel, which God grant, may not be the caſe.
You may relie upon it, the Yankees will never be
a match for the troops of G. B. The Yorkers have
behaved like damned fools, in robbing the Kings
Stores, as government intended to have granted them
excluſive priviledges in trade, had they continued
loyal. It will now be a rendezvous for B. Troops.
We know well that you are divided; that your peo=
=ple are diſcouraged, that you want diſcipline, Ar=
=tillery, & Ammunition, & Government has taken
effectual care, that you ſhall not be ſupplied
from other powers. I have wondered that we have
not heard from you. Difference in politics has not
cancelled my friendſhip for you. Let me intreat
you, not to take up arms agt your rightful King,
as your friend Warren did, for which he has paid
dearly. I cannot ſend your Sulkey, & the other
matters you ſent for; you may thank your own
people for that, who firſt ſat the example, by pre=
=venting any thing being brot to Town. I think
you might have ſent us a bit of freſh pork now
& then. You ſee Hancock & Adams are attainted
already; if you cannot paſs the lines, you may
come

come in Capt. Wallace, via R. Iſland. If you do not come immediately, write to me in this character, & direct your letter to Major Cane, in his Majeſtys Service, & deliver it to Capt Wallace, it will come ſafe. We have often been informed, your people intend to attack the town. By G— I believe they had ſuch a doſe on Bunkers hill, as to cool their courage. Your ſiſter has been for running away. Kitty has been very ſick; we wiſhed you to ſee her, ſhe is now picking up. I remain your ſincere friend & brother I. F.

P. S. do not fail to write ſoon.

The Dr. firſt premiſed, the improbability that his letters was wrote to Major Cane, from that expreſsion, "that he went by way of R. Iſland to viſit mother" ~~whi~~ which was very proper to be mentioned in that manner to his brother— He then proceeded. That he had by converſing with Fleming, fiſhed out of him intelligence very ſerviceable to the country, particularly the expedition to Concord, whereby the congreſs were appriſed of the neceſsity of removing their military ſtores, from that town, & had accordingly removed great part, for the truth of this he appealed to ſome Gentlemen in the houſe. As he wrote to Fleming upon this friendly principle, it was neceſsary to convince of him, of an apparent ſincerity, for which purpoſe thoſe clauſes which relate to a former attempt to get a letter in, to the danger of a diſcovery, to aſsurance of

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of his ſincerity &c, were inſerted, & that no perſon at all was apprehended, & confined for attempting an eſcape — However painful it was to convict oneſelf of falſhood, he muſt deſire the houſe, to believe, that there was no truth in thoſe clauſes. As to that paſſage, which ſeemed to intimate a former notice of our intending to fortifie Bunker hill, he ſaid, either the letter was not rightly decyphered, or, when he put the long hand draught into cyphers, he omitted the following words "for the purpoſe of fortifying Bunker's hill" which ſhould have been inſerted, after the words "Gen. Ward". As to that paſſage, which refers to the robbing of the Kings ſtores at N. York, he ſaid, his motive for mentioning it, was to divert the vengeance of G. Britain from N. York, to Connecticut, who were out of the reach of their ſhips, & that it was well known, the N. Yorkers alone plundered the ſtores — As to the words "lucky defeat" he ſaid the letter l had in the intercepted letter, a line drawn thro' it, which had a negative ſignification, for the truth of which he appealed to the letter — As to the affair of Canada, he knew that the enemy were appriſed of our deſign upon it, he therefore mentioned it as a thing, only in contemplation, in order to lull them to ſecurity. To the other parts of the letter,

he

made the ſame defence, he did before the council of war, obſerving that moſt of the circumſtances which he had wrote, reſpecting the continent, & the army, were much more advantageous to them, than the truth would warrant, which was a fact well known— He then informed the houſe, that he was ſenſible of the impropriety of his being a member thereof, till the imputation which now lay upon his character was removed— That an expulſion would tend to fix the imputation of guilt upon him, & prejudice agt him, the whole continent, ſome of whom muſt be his judges— That as he was willing to reſign, he earneſtly intreated that they would accept of a reſignation, & thereby leave him a fair trial, before unbiaſed Judges, which however guilty he might be, he was entitled to —

Soon after he wrote the Speaker the following letter —

Hond. & dear Sir—

The viciſſitudes of human life frequently require the moſt painful ſacrifices; while he, who tempers the wind to the ſhorn lamb, never deſerts the guiltleſs ſufferer. With a decent pride Sir, with that ſelf approving conſciouſneſs of having never violated that duty I owe my country, I can ſmile ſerenely, tho' the envenom'd ſhafts of

malice

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malice are levelled ag^t my peace, tho' with my tarniſhed name, the winds grow ſick, & the buſy tooth of ſcandal, now lacerates my reputation without remorſe. I think I have magnanimity eno', to approve the noble jealouſy of my countrymen, & could even wiſh to prevent that regret, which thoſe who have ſenſibility to feel, muſt ultimately feel, at having ſo cauſeleſsly, ſo precipitately, condemned their ~~brother~~ friend — their brother. Frailties & indiſcretions I have, thoſe I wiſh not to cover, human fallibility ſtrews a ſufficiency of theſe, thro' all our paths, as a relay to our pride, & as Beacons to prevent future lapſes: but a deliberate deſign to injure the community, or even an individual, never found a nook in my boſom, ſo vile as to harbour it. I love my country; I have ſtruggled; I have ſuffered in her ſervice. I regret not my labours, my ~~fo~~ ſacrifices, in a cauſe ſo ſacred. But that I have been ~~[illegible]~~ ſo groſsly miſconſtrued; that I have been undeſervedly vilified; that my friends, perhaps too ſuſceptible of jealouſy, have flung my poor exertions into oblivion, & have induſtriouſly inſcribed one well meant act of indiſcretion, on the ſcroll of infamy, I muſt enumerate among my heavieſt calamities. I ~~once~~ intreat your pardon Sir! I mean not to recriminate. I mean not now to juſtifie. At a remote, at an unprejudiced tribunal, I muſt appear: my integrity ſhall then be blazoned, or my reputation blaſted forever. I exult in the contemplation, that the penetrating eye of diſcernment, & the ſteady unbiaſſed hand of Juſtice, ſhall trace the line of my fate. In the interim, a due regard to the honourable, the immaculate houſe of repreſentatives of this colony, a warm affection to my worthy, faithful, & ſuffering brethren of the town of Boſton, forbid me, at this unhappy criſis, to mingle with thoſe, or repreſent theſe; till a thorough inveſtigation of that conduct, for which I am ſo ſeverely cenſured, ſhall have removed the general prejudice agt me. I have ſuſtained ſome little part thro' the ſtruggles of ſundry paſt years: the welfare of the community at large, & of my afflicted conſtituents more particularly, have been the objects of my inceſſant ſollicitude, & occaſioned the very letter, for which I now ſtand reprobated. Penetrated with the utmoſt gratitude, for the many & diſtinguiſhing expreſſions, of the regard & confidence of my worthy townſmen, with the moſt fervent prayers for their future proſperity, and deeply afflicted with the unhappy incident, which makes a reſignation, at this period, indiſpenſably neceſſary, I reſign my ſeat in the honourable houſe, as a repreſentative for the town of Boſton: but with the firmeſt aſſurance, that a thorough conviction of my unſhaken integrity, & invariable endeavours to promote public intereſt, will eventually reſtore me to the regard & confidence of a juſt, diſcerning, & virtuous people.

I am your honor's afflicted,
but faithful humble Servt.

Camb. Oct. 15. 1775 -

B. Church

The houſe did not accept his reſignation, & afterwards expelled him therefrom. —

It is probable to me, he intended to cheat both ſides, that ~~let victory~~ whatever ſide victory attended, he might have merit to plead, either to procure reward, or ſhelter himſelf from puniſhment -

Proceedings respecting Dr Church's correspondence with the Enemy -

1775

P

On the 5th of last Octr., the House of Representatives were informed, that Dr. Church, one of their members, was imprisoned by the Genl. & thereby was prevented from attending his duty, as a member of that House: they thereupon sent a Commee. to the Genl., desiring their ~~letter~~ member, & the reasons of his confinement. the Genl. sent them the Dr., and with him [illegible] of the Court Martial, respecting him, a transcript of which follows - viz that, at a council of war held at Head Quarters Oct. 3. 1775. Present. His Excellency ~~the~~ Genl. Washington, the Hon. Major Generals Ward, Lee, Putnam, the Hon. Brig. Generals Thomas, Spencer Heath, Sullivan, Green, Gates, the Genl. communicated to the board, a discovery of a correspondence, carried on with the enemy by letter, in characters, which were decyphered by the Revd. Mr. West, & laid the letter before the council - after discussing the matter, the Council determined to adjourn till the next day, & that ~~then~~ Dr. Church should then be examined. On the next day, ~~day~~ the council met, & were present as before. Dr. Church was also sent for, & shewn the letter in characters - he acknowledged that he wrote it, & that Mr. West had truly decyphered it. He declared that his intention of writing the letter was with a view to possess the enemy with a strong idea of our strength, & situation, in order to prevent an attack, at a time, when the continent was in

[illegible]

enemy, was in great meaſure [illegible], & in hopes of effecting ſome ſpeedy accommodation of the preſent diſpute, & concluded with ſolemn aſſeverations of his innocence. Notwithſtanding, the council were of [illegible] opinion, that Dr. Church had carried on a criminal correſpondence with the enemy.—

They then conſidered what were the proper ſteps to be taken with him, & after examining the rules & articles of the continental army, particularly the 28th, 29th, & 51st articles, they determined, that from the enormity of the crime, & the very inadequate puniſhment pointed out, ~~that~~ it ſhould be referred to the Congreſs, for their ſpecial direction; & that in the mean time, he be cloſely confined, & no perſon viſit him, without ſpecial licence.— —

The General alſo ſent the houſe the Drs letter, as decyphered by Mr West, a copy of which follows.—

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ſon, you were informed, being at Cambridge.
Sign ſome fictitious name. This you may ſend to
ſome confidential friend, to deliver me, at Water-
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B. Church.

R. ſtes

After these papers were read, the Dr ~~do~~ with a calm composed manner, desired to know of the house, what view they had in examining him: whether they were now proceeding to a final trial, & should pass sentence.

The Speaker then informed him, that the house had no other motive in examining him, but to determine the propriety of his continuing a member of that house. The Dr then told them, that the inclosed letter, tho' superscribed to Major Cane, was wrote to his brother in law, Mr Fleming. That, some days since, as he was riding to mistick, he overtook a woman riding in a Cart, who had just come out of Boston; he knew her face, but could not recollect her name; she delivered him a letter from Mr Fleming in cyphers, which he decyphered when he returned to his lodgings, & as the ~~whole~~ original was then of no consequence, he put it in his pocket where he supposed it got destroyed. He delivered to the house the copy of Flemings letter, which follows viz —

Dr Doctor -

I have often told you what the dreams of your high sons would come to. Do you forget the many repeated cautions, not to make yourself too obnoxious to government? What says the Psalm singer & Johnny Dupe ~~now~~ to fighting british troops now? They are at Philadelphia I suppose, plotting more mischief, when I hear your High Mightiness has been Ambassador extraordinary. Take care of your neck Mr Dr; remember your old friend the Orator, he will preach no more sedition. Abby joins with me, in begging you will come to Boston. You may depend upon it, Government are determined to cruſh this rebellion. A large reinforcement of troops is hourly expected; when they are determined to penetrate the country. For Gods ſake Dr, come to town directly - I'll engage to procure your pardon: your ſiſter is unhappy under the apprehenſion of your being taken, & hanged as a rebel, which God grant, may not be the caſe. You may relie upon it, the Yankees will never be a match for the troops of G. B. The Yankees have behaved like damned fools, in robbing the Kings ſtores, as government intended to have granted them valuable priviledges in trade, had they continued loyal. It will now be a rendezvous for B. Troops. We know well that you are divided; that your people are diſcouraged, that you want diſcipline, Artillery, & Ammunition, & government has taken effectual care, that you ſhall not be ſupplied from other powers. I have wondered that we have not heard from you. Difference in politics has not cancelled my friendſhip for you. Let me intreat you, not to take up arms agt your rightful King, as your friend Warren did, for which he has paid dearly. I cannot ſend your Sulkey, & the other matters you ſent for; you may thank your own people for that, who firſt ſet the example, by preventing any thing being ſent to Town. I think you might have ſent us a bit of fiſh peck now & then. You ſee Hancock & Adams are attainted already. if you cannot paſs the lines, you may come in Capt. Wallace, via R. Iſland. If you do not come immediately, write to me in this character, & direct your letter to Major Cane, in his Majeſty's ſervice, & deliver it to Capt Wallace, it will come ſafe. We have often been informed, your people intend to attack this town. By G— I believe they had ſuch a doſe on Bunker's hill, as to cool their courage. Your ſiſter has been for running away. Kitty has been very ſick, we wiſhed you to ſee her, ſhe is now picking up. I remain your ſincere friend & brother P. F.

P.S. do not fail to write ſoon.

The Dr. firſt premiſed, the improbability that his letter was wrote to Major Cane, from that expreſsion, "that he went by way of R. Iſland to viſit mother" which was very proper to be mentioned in that manner to his brother— He then proceeded. That he had by converſing with Fleming, fiſhed out of him intelligence very ſerviceable to this country, particularly the expedition to Concord, whereby the congreſs were appriſed of the neceſsity of removing their military ſtores, from that town, & had accordingly removed great part, for the truth of this he appealed to ſome Gentlemen in the houſe. As he wrote to Fleming upon this friendly principle, it was neceſsary to convince of him, of an apparent ſincerity, for which purpoſe thoſe clauſes which relate to a former attempt to get a letter in, to the danger of diſcovery, to [illegible] of his ſincerity &c., were inſerted, & that no [illegible] at all was apprehended, & confirmed for effecting an eſcape — However painful it was to convict [illegible] of falſhood, he muſt deſire the houſe to believe, *that there was no truth in those clauſes*. As to that paſſage, which ſeemed to intimate a former notice of our intending to fortifie Bunker hill, he ſaid, either the letter was not rightly decyphered, or, when he put the long hand draught into cyphers, he omitted the following words "*for the purpoſe of fortifying Bunker's hill*" which ſhould have been inſerted, after the words "Gen. Ward." As to that paſſage, which refers to the robbing of the Kings ſtores at N. York, he ſaid, his motive for mentioning it, was to divert the vengeance of G. Britain from N. York, to Connecticut, who was out of the reach of their ſhips, & that it was well known, the N. Yorkers alone plundered the ſtores. As to the words "lucky deſ—" he ſaid the letter *l* had in the intercepted letter, a line drawn thro' it, which had a negative ſignification, for the truth of which he appealed to the letter. As to the affair of Canada, he knew that the enemy were appriſed of our deſign upon it, he therefore mentioned it as a thing, *only in contemplation*, in order to lull them to ſecurity. To the other parts of the letter,

he

made the ſame defence, he did before the council of war, obſerving that moſt of the circumſtances which he had wrote, reſpecting the continent, & the army, were much more advantageous to them, than the truth would warrant, which was a fact well known - He then informed the houſe, that he was ſenſible of the impropriety of his being a member thereof, till the imputation which now lay upon his character was removed - That an expulſion would tend to fix the imputation of guilt upon him, & prejudice ag.t him, the whole continent, ſome of whom muſt be his judges - That as he was willing to reſign, he earneſtly intreated that they would accept of a reſignation, & thereby leave him a fair trial, before unbiaſed Judges, which however guilty he might be, he was entitled to -

Soon after he wrote the ſpeaker the following letter -

Hon.d & dear Sir -

The viciſſitudes of human life frequently require the moſt painful ſacrifices; while he, who tempers the wind to the ſhorn lamb, never deſerts the guiltleſs ſufferer. With a decent pride Sir, with that ſelf approving conſciouſneſs of having never violated that duty I owe my country, I can ſmile ſecurely, tho' the envenom'd ſhafts of malice are levelled agt. my peace, tho', with my tainted name, the winds grow ſick, & the buſy tooth of ſlandal, now lacerates my reputation without remorſe. I think I have magnanimity eno', to approve the noble jealouſy of my countrymen, & could even wiſh to prevent that regret, which thoſe who have ſenſibility to feel, muſt ultimately feel, at having so cauſeleſsly, ſo precipitately, condemned their ~~brother~~ friend — their brother. Frailties & indiſcretions I have, thoſe I wiſh not to cover, human fallibility ſtrews a ſufficiency of theſe, thro' all our paths, as a relay to our pride, & as Beacons to prevent future lapſes: but a deliberate deſign to injure the community, or even an individual, never found a nook in my boſom, ſo vile as to harbour it. I love my country; I have ſtruggled; I have ſuffered in her ſervice. I regret not my labours, my ~~fa~~ ſacrifices, in a cauſe ſo ſacred. But that I have been ~~[illegible] ſuſpected~~ ſo groſsly miſconſtrued; that I haves been undeſervedly vilified; that my friends, perhaps too ſuſceptible of jealouſy, have flung my poor exertions into oblivion, & have induſtriouſly inſcribed one well meant act of indiſcretion, on the ſcroll of infamy, I muſt enumerate among my heavieſt calamities. I ~~mean~~ intreat your pardon Sir! I mean not to recriminate. I mean not now to juſtifie. At a remote, at an unprejudiced tribunal, I muſt appear: my integrity ſhall then be blazoned, or my reputation blaſted forever. I exult in the contemplation, that the penetrating eye of diſcernment, & the ſteady unbiaſſed hand of Juſtice, ſhall trace the line of my fate. In the interim, a due regard to the honourable, the immaculate houſe of repreſentatives of this colony, a warm affection to my worthy, faithful, & ſuffering brethren of the town of Boſton, forbid me, at this unhappy criſis, to mingle with thoſe, or repreſent theſe; till a thorough inveſtigation of that conduct, for which I am ſo ſeverely cenſured, ſhall have removed the general prejudice agt. me. I have ſuſtained ſome little part thro' the ſtruggles of ſundry paſt years: the wellfare of the community at large, & of my afflicted conſtituents more particularly, have been the objects of my inceſſant ſollicitude, & occaſioned the very letters, for which I now ſtand reprobated. Penetrated with the utmoſt gratitude, for the many & diſtinguiſhing expreſſions, of the regard & confidence of my worthy townſmen, with the moſt fervent prayers for their future proſperity, and deeply afflicted with the unhappy incident, which makes a reſignation, at this period, indiſpenſably neceſſary, I reſign my ſeat in

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the honourable houſe, as a repreſentative for the town of Boſton; but with the firmeſt aſsurance, that a thorough conviction of my unſhaken integrity, & invariable endeavours to promote the public intereſt, will eventually reſtore me to the regard, & confidence of a juſt, diſcerning, & virtuous people.

I am your honor's afflicted,
but faithful humble Servt.
Camb. Oct. 13. 1775 -
B. Church

The houſe did not accept his reſignation, but afterwards expelled him therefrom. —

It is probable to me, he intended to cheat both ſides, that ~~let victory~~ Whatever ſide victory attended, he might have merit to plead, either to procure reward, or ſhelter himſelf from puniſhment -

Proceedings respecting Dr.
Church's correspondence with
the Enemy -
1775

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